

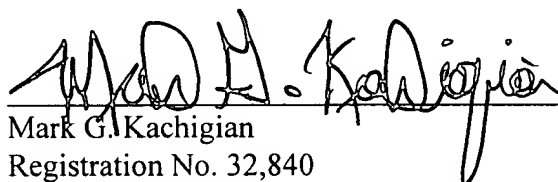
REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 09, 2002 has been fully considered by the Applicant. The Examiner has therein set forth a restriction requirement dividing the pending claims into two groups.

Applicant traverses the restriction requirement on the basis that all of the claims could be simply and easily considered together. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Applicant elects Claims 1 through 46 directed toward a cross-linking compound. Applicant cancels Claims 47 and 48 without prejudice to its rights.

It is believed that the foregoing is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark G. Kachigian", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark G. Kachigian  
Registration No. 32,840  
HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN  
228 West 17<sup>th</sup> Place  
Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74119  
(918) 587-2000  
Attorneys for Applicant

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